

FACTORY DIRECT SINCE 1953  
**Champion**  
WINDOWS • SIDING PATIO ROOMS

March 27, 2003

Richard H. Karney, P.E., Manager  
ENERGY STAR Program  
Building Technologies Program  
Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

■ VINYL REPLACEMENT

WINDOWS

■ STORM DOORS &

WINDOWS

■ PATIO & ENTRY DOORS

■ VINYL SIDING AND TRIM

■ PATIO ROOMS &

PORCH ENCLOSURES

Dear Mr. Karney,

I am sending you this letter on behalf of Champion Window Mfg. Co. Our company manufactures over 200,000 windows annually, and sells these direct to the consumer through our 51 factory showrooms in 27 states.

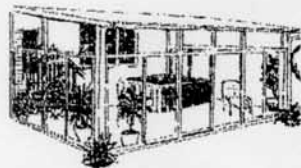
We are requesting that DOE adopt the Four-zone proposal for the ENERGY STAR Windows Program, and NOT adopt the Three -zone proposal. There are several reasons for our request for DOE to adopt the Four-Zone proposal:

1. The Four-Zone Proposal saves more energy than the Three-zone alternative. This results in a direct benefit to the environment, the economy and most of all to the homeowner/consumer.
2. The Four-Zone Proposal maintains a competitive marketplace for all types of high performance Low-E glass products.
3. The manufacturing and processing of pyrolytic Low-E products save energy and money as compared to the processing of sputtered Low-E products.
4. DOE highlights that a substantial body of work went into defining and representing climate regions in the United States, which justifies the Four-Zone map.
5. DOE has already rejected the Three-Zone criteria twice.
6. Recent increases in natural gas prices are scheduled to increase consumer costs a minimum of 15% in the near future.

We realize that this is a difficult decision for DOE, but we implore you to consider the impact of your decision on companies, such as ours, and our customers. Accordingly, we again ask that DOE adopt the Four-Zone Proposal for the ENERGY STAR Windows Program.

Respectfully,

Bernard Barbash  
President, COO



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